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cont.
201b and 201d of the ink pack 201 are sandwiched between the mutually-opposing end sections
204b and 204b'."

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus which supplies ink to a recording head by application of pressurized air produced by an air pressurization pump, the ink cartridge comprising:

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an outer shell member constructed at least by a first outer shell constituent member and a second outer shell constituent member, said first outer shell constituent member having an opening and having a film hermetically sealed over said opening, said second outer shell constituent member being coupled to said first outer shell constituent member to cover said film;

an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, the ink pack being housed within the outer shell; and

a pressure chamber defined between the outer shell member and the ink pack and adapted to receive the pressurized air produced by the air pressurization pump.

5. (Amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus which supplies ink to a recording head by application of pressurized air produced by an air pressurization pump, the ink cartridge comprising:

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an outer shell member constructed at least by a first outer shell constituent member and a second outer shell constituent member that are hermetically coupled together;

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an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, the ink pack being housed within the outer shell; and ^{member}

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a pressure chamber defined between the outer shell member and the ink pack and adapted to receive the pressurized air produced by the air pressurization pump, wherein reinforcement ribs are formed on surfaces of the first and second outer shell constituent members, the surfaces at least partially defining the pressure chamber.

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~~23~~ 17. (Amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing ~~in~~ ink therein, and a cartridge case hermetically formed for housing the ink pack, wherein, when the ink cartridge is mounted to ^{the} a recording apparatus, pressurized air is introduced into the cartridge case, the ink cartridge comprising:

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first and second cases which constitute the cartridge case, said second case having a circumferential portion;

a flange section formed along an edge of an opening of the first case, wherein said circumferential portion of said second case covers said flange section; and

at least one lug-shaped member which is formed on the second case and engages with the flange section, thereby coupling the first and second cases together, wherein said lug-shaped member protrudes inward from an inner surface of said circumferential portion.

Please add the following new claims:

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32 43. An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, including an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, and a cartridge case hermetically formed for housing the ink pack, wherein, when the ink cartridge is mounted to ^{the} a recording apparatus, pressurized air is introduced into the cartridge case, the ink cartridge comprising:

first and second cases which constitute the cartridge case, said second case is formed from a planar section acting as a cover and a fold section formed integral with and perpendicular to the planar section;

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at least one lug-shaped member which is formed on the fold section of the second case; and

at least one slit formed through the second case at a location corresponding to the location of the lug-shaped member, said slit extending in a direction parallel to the fold section.

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13 w/02 44. The ink cartridge as defined in claim ~~12~~ ¹⁸, wherein the pressurized air inlet port is released when the ink cartridge is removed from ^{the} a recording apparatus during printing.

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12 45. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising an ink supply port of the ink pack and an air inlet port disposed on a surface of the first outer shell constituent member,

wherein the opening over which the film is hermetically sealed is formed in a surface of the first outer shell constituent member different from the surface of the first outer shell constituent member where an ink supply port of the ink pack and an air inlet port are disposed.

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46. The ink cartridge as defined in claim 12, further comprising a sealing member interposed between the ink outlet section and the outer shell in a radial direction of the ink outlet section.

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47. An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus which supplies ink to a recording head by application of pressurized air produced by an air pressurization pump, the ink cartridge comprising:

an outer shell member constructed at least by a first outer shell constituent member and a second outer shell constituent member that are hermetically coupled together;

an ink pack of flexible material storing ink therein, the ink pack being housed within the outer shell; and

a pressure chamber defined between the outer shell member and the ink pack and adapted to receive the pressurized air produced by the air pressurization pump,

wherein the second outer shell constituent member is a heat-welding film.

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48. The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the first outer shell constituent member and the second outer shell constituent member are hermetically coupled together by heat-welding.

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49. The ink cartridge according to claim 48, wherein a continuous, substantially planar weld surface is formed over the entirety of a peripheral edge of a lower case forming the first outer shell constituent member, and said heat-welding film forming the second outer shell constituent member is thermally welded to the weld surface.

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50. The ink cartridge according to claim 49, further comprising a reinforcement member which covers an outside of the heat-welding film.

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51. The ink cartridge according to claim 50, wherein an engagement section removably engaging the peripheral edge of the lower case is formed integrally on a peripheral edge of the reinforcement member.

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52. The ink cartridge according to any one of claims 48 through 51, wherein reinforcement ribs are formed on the surface of the first outer shell constituent member, the surface at least partially defining the pressure chamber.

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53. The ink cartridge according to claim 47, wherein a first continuous, closely contactable surface is formed over the entirety of a peripheral edge of a lower case forming the first outer shell constituent member; a second closely contactable surface is formed on a peripheral edge of a cover forming the second outer shell constituent member to be brought into close contact with the first closely contactable surface; and an engagement section removably

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engaging the peripheral edge of the lower case is formed integrally on the cover, the engagement

section maintaining the case and the cover in a sealed state.
